

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /134 W

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R 060949Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2756

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T MOSCOW 12318

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT PL UR

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON SZULC REPORT

REF: A. WARSAW 5199, B. MOSCOW 11479

1. TAD SZULC' CONVERSATION WITH SZLACHCIC (REF A) IS FASCINATING BIT OF EVIDENCE OR MISINFORMATION BEARING ON THE ROLE OF INTERNAL SECURITY IN THE USSR AS A THREAT TO DETENTE. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO OFFER SOME PRELIMINARY COMMENTS.

2. WE FIND IT FAR-FETCHED TO CAST GIEREK OR ANY EAST EUROPEAN LEADER IN A DECISIVE ROLE IN ANY POLITBURO DEBATE. POSSIBLY A DISCUSSION OF THE POTENTIAL DANGERS OF DETENTE WOULD HAVE TOUCHED AN DANGERS FOR EASTERN EUROPE, AND IN THIS LIMITED CONTEXT BREZHNEV MIGHT HAVE CALLED ON GIEREK FOR EXPERT TESTIMONY.

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3. AS INDICATED REF B, WE DOUBT THE EXISTENCE IN THE POLITBURO OF THE KIND OF HARD DIVISION POSITED BY SZLACHCIC. WE DO NOT DOUBT THAT SOVIET LEADERS ARE TROUBLED, IN VARYING DEGREES, BY SOME OF THE INTERNAL IMPLICATIONS OF DETENTE. BUT OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE DECISIONS ON DETENTE AT THE APRIL PLENUM WERE COLLECTIVE ONES, AND WE WOULD GUESS THAT AS A CONSENSUS POLITICIAN BREZHNEV CONTINUES TO TRY TO KEEP THE POLITBURO WITH HIM, BENDING HIS POLICIES WHERE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THIS. AND THE MOST LIKELY PLACE TO BEND IS IN POLICIES AFFECTING INTERNAL SECURITY, NOT THE POLICY OF DETENTE ITSELF (ALTHOUGH POSSIBLY AFFECTING DETENTE THROUGH MEDIUM OF WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION).

4. AS REGARDS POLISH MOTIVATIONS IN GIVING SZULC THIS STORY, IF THE THEORY OF SOVIET INSTIGATION IS FOLLOWED, SZULC'S SPECULATION ABOUT SEEKING TO EASE WESTERN PRESSURE FOR BASKET THREE CONCESSIONS WOULD BE MOST LOGICAL REASON FOR MISINFORMATION. THIS IMPLIES ALSO AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN WESTERN SYMPATHY FOR BREZHNEV'S "PLIGHT." WE WOULD BE INCLINED TO LOOK CLOSER TO HOME, HOWEVER; SPREADING THIS STORY WOULD SEEM TO SERVE POLISH INTERESTS BY DEPICTING GIEREK AS THE SAVIOR OF DETENTE.

5. DID SZULC INDICATE WHETHER HE PLANNED TO USE THIS STORY FOR PUBLICATION?
DUBS

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NNN

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